

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A digital camera which causes an image pickup element to photograph an object to obtain image data expressing an object image comprising:

a plurality of photographing signal processing units for sharing predetermined photographing signal processing to the image data and performing the predetermined photographing signal processing as parallel processing, wherein

the photographing signal processing units, for the predetermined photographing signal processing in regions assigned by the photographing signal processing units, capture the image data such that each of the photographing signal processing units and another photographing signal processing unit which have adjacent assigned regions are at least partially overlapped.

2. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a recording unit for recording image data processed by the photographing signal processing units in a predetermined recording media, wherein

in a recording operation performed by the recording unit, the plurality of image data obtained by dividing the object image into the assigned regions as a result of parallel processing performed by the plurality of photographing signal processing units are rearranged as one image data expressing the object image.

3. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a recording unit for recording image data processed by the photographing signal processing units in a predetermined

recording media, wherein

the plurality of image data obtained by dividing the object image into the assigned regions as a result of parallel processing performed by the plurality of photographing signal processing units are separately recorded by the recording unit.

4. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 3, further comprising a display unit for displaying the object image based on the image data, wherein

in a display operation performed by the display unit, the plurality of image data separately recorded by the recording unit and obtained by dividing the object image into the assigned regions are rearranged as one image data expressing the object image.

5. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 3, wherein the recording unit records the plurality of image data constituting the same object image such that the image data are correlated with each other.

6. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 4, wherein the recording unit records the plurality of image data constituting the same object image such that the image data are correlated with each other.

7. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein the recording media is built in the digital camera.

8. (Original) A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein the recording media is detachably loaded on the digital camera.

9. (Currently amended) A digital camera comprising:

an optical unit including a lens for forming an object image;

a drive circuit for driving the optical unit;

a CCD image sensor, arranged behind the optical unit along an optical axis thereof, for photographing the object image at a level of at least ten million pixels;

an analog front end, connected to the CCD image sensor, for controlling the ~~drive of the~~ CCD image sensor and performing predetermined analog signal processing to an output signal expressing the object image and read from the CCD image sensor, to generate digital image signals; and

a digital computing processing unit, connected to an output end of the analog front end, constituted by a plurality of processors, for performing predetermined digital signal processing to the digital image-data signals, wherein

each of the plurality of processors recognizes the positions of the digital image signals by timing signals, selects and captures the digital image signals corresponding to capturing regions determined to have overlapping regions therebetween.

10. (Currently amended) A digital camera according to claim 9, further comprising:

a media interface for controlling reading/writing of various data from/in ~~the~~ a recording media;

a display monitor for displaying an image obtained by photographing or for displaying various types of information;

an operation unit operated by a photographer; and

an external output interface for outputting image data to an external device connected through a predetermined cable.

11. (Currently amended) A digital camera according to claim 9, wherein the analog front end performs the predetermined analog signal processing including at least one of a correlative double sampling process and sensitivity adjustment in units of RGB colors to an analog image signal input from the CCD image sensor; ~~Thereafter~~ thereafter the analog image signal is A/D converted to be output as a digital image signal.

12. (Currently amended) A digital camera according to claim 11, wherein one of the ~~predetermined~~ plurality of processors instructs another processor of the plurality of processors to capture a digital image signal.

13. (Currently amended) A digital camera according to claim 9, further comprising a timing generator, connected to the plurality of processors, for supplying the timing signals to the plurality of processors.

14. (Canceled)